

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SHAWN
CHRISTIANSON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great local leader in my district, Shawn Christianson, as she leaves the Hillsborough Town Council after eight years. She is departing public life after a quarter century of volunteer and elective service to her community. She will be deeply missed.

Shawn Christianson is brilliant, honest, upbeat, and leaves a whirlwind in her wake as she moves through life. She brought her boundless energy and positive attitude to an extraordinary number of activities, all while working full time in a San Francisco legal practice, where she is now a partner, I might also point out she raised two children, Spencer and Conor, at the same time.

For over 14 years before being named Citizen of the Year in 2010, Shawn served on the North School Site Council and on the North Parent Group Executive Board. She was President of the Association of Parent Groups and then became Vice President of the Hillsborough Schools Foundation. In 2001/02, she was part of a small group of persons who led a successful effort to pass school bonds. Even after her children graduated, she remained committed to the schools and in 2005 was elected to the school board, serving four years including one as board president. In her role, she was instrumental in the design and reconstruction of four schools.

As if working full time as a bankruptcy attorney and raising two children were not enough, Shawn also advised the Bay Area Women's and Children's Center, an agency serving children in families with little or no income. At one point she was on the board of directors of a local children's museum, and on the Cal Berkeley Parents Board. To top off her frenetic pace, she coached a mock trial team at her son's high school. These activities were in the days when "Zoom" was a description of speed and not shorthand for pandemic reality. Just imagine the number of hours spent by Shawn in study and advocacy as she met—in a group at countless points on the map—to uphold these commitments. Her husband, Philip McLeod, might be forgiven if he thought he'd married a Ferrari instead of a loving wife, mother and formidable attorney.

Shawn was elected to the Hillsborough city council in 2012 and has served continuously since, including as Mayor since 2018 (her second time as Mayor), and Vice Mayor from 2016 to 2018. When presiding during council meetings, she handled difficult matters with grace and tact, seeking consensus despite the passions of the moment. We know Shawn as a voice of reason, but as she wields the gavel during a tense meeting her pitch is authoritative because she always comes prepared. Woe be to advocates who try to gloss over

weaknesses in a proposal hoping that no one will notice. Shawn Christianson reads footnotes. She'll notice.

Like the residents she serves, Shawn is dedicated to maintaining the natural beauty of Hillsborough, its small-town atmosphere, preserving its architectural heritage and maintaining strong finances. Despite upheavals in our nation's economy, Hillsborough's budget is balanced each year and its long-term fiscal outlook is bright.

As a partner in the Buchalter law firm, Shawn focuses her practice on insolvency, receiverships, and complex litigation with an emphasis on technology related issues. She's argued at both the trial level and at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Her list of professional accomplishments takes up a full page of small type, but includes serving for two terms on the Board of Directors and as a Director-At-Large of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation and as both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy section. Shawn is a trained mediator and has been a Resolution Advocate on the Bankruptcy Dispute Resolution Panel.

With one notable exception, I can think of no one in the country who seems to enjoy going through bankruptcy. With Shawn on your team, I can think of no one better to be at your side.

Madam Speaker, in our modern economy, billions are made through the construction of fictional heroes of boundless powers proving themselves through unending challenges. Shawn Christianson is the real deal. As she retires to private and professional life, we thank her for a generation of contributions on our behalf. If you turn off the electricity to the world of a fictional hero, it fades to black. If you remove Shawn Christianson from public life, her accomplishments will live for decades. I thank Shawn for her friendship and outstanding example. In a democracy, there is no higher compliment than to say that you made a difference. She certainly did and we—her friends and neighbors—are forever in her debt.

CONGRATULATING MS. ANGELE
GILROY ON 47 YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE WITH THE CONGRES-
SIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Ms. Angele Gilroy, and to congratulate her on her retirement following 47 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Congress and our nation as an analyst with the Congressional Research Service.

Ms. Gilroy began her federal service in 1974 and has since become CRS's principle analyst

on telecommunications policy. In this role, she has served all 541 Congressional offices and multiple committees who have all benefited from her expertise gained through decades of research. Ms. Gilroy has consistently provided accurate, nonpartisan analysis to Congressional Members and staff to inform policy decisions during high-profile events including broadband deployment for COVID-19, Net Neutrality debates, the landmark Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Bell telephone system dissolution in 1984.

But one of the most important services that Ms. Gilroy has provided is what she has given to the future generations at CRS. Ms. Gilroy has formally mentored new employees and provided informal guidance to others on writing, briefing, and research, ensuring CRS will continue to provide the highest-quality policy analysis to Congress. The standard of excellence she set will be upheld and her legacy will go on through the continued efforts of those she trained counseled.

Ms. Gilroy has served under eight U.S. Presidents, continuing to excel in her professional duties as the country progressed into new ideals, advanced technologies, and increased security measures. The changes that Ms. Gilroy has been a part of have been instrumental, and her dedication to accurate data and robust nonpartisan policy analysis have been pillars for others to emulate. I am proud to represent Ms. Gilroy in Congress, and I thank her for the invaluable contributions she has made during her distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Gilroy and in thanking her for her nearly half a century of public service.

REMEMBERING ARTIS GILLAM SR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Artis Gillam Sr., of Youngstown, Ohio, who passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at the age of 78.

Mr. Gillam was born July 17, 1942, in Moultrie, Georgia, a son of Rufus and Vallie Edmondson Gillam. He was a 1961 graduate of North High School and attended Youngstown State University, majoring in business administration.

Artis was a lifelong member of Price Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, where he served on the steward and trustee boards. A man who always sought to be a leader and never a follower, Artis' goal was definitely to be an extraordinary businessman. An entrepreneur, he was owner/operator of many ventures: Gillam & Associates, Inc., Life Skills Carpentry and Painting (LCAP), Artis' Tender Love and Care (a safe haven for young girls), and Mr. G's Eastside Tire, Lube and Wash.

He also served in many community capacities, including as a Mahoning County deputy

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